

**TOWN OF CANTON REGULAR
BOARD MEETING**

6:00 PM

March 11, 2020

Minutes

Present: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Deputy Supervisor Bob Washo, Council members James Smith, Tim Danehy and Karin Blackburn

Also in Attendance: Attorney Eric Gustafson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond, Highway Superintendent Terry Billings, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Angela Gray of Gray and Gray, Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray, Historian Linda Casserly, Justices Rosemary Philips and Mike Morgan, Susan Huntley, Dan Dominie, Adam Akinson, Toby Irwin, Lynn Soulia and Anna Sorensen.

Absent: Assessor Cindy Brand

A. Call Meeting to Order: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley added to the Agenda

Under New Business: #3 IT Policy discussion and possible passage

Under Supervisor's report: Corona Virus update

B. Public Comment: none

C. Bail Reform Presentation – Justice Rosemary Philips and Justice Michael Morgan

Both Justices Philips and Morgan gave a detailed explanation of the up and coming changes to the Justice system. Discussion was held on changes to the bail laws, changes on notification on how to appear in court. The Justices are working on adjusting to the changes, as the paper work process has tripled, requiring agencies to have to create new positions. After discussion the Canton Town Board members agreed to allow the current part time court clerk to work 19 hours a week and reevaluate down the road. With these changes come more time refrains in the court.

D. County Legislature Representative(s) Updates: none

E. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting 2/13/2020

Motion to approve minutes made by Council member Karin Blackburn, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carries.

F. Supervisor Report:

Angela Gray of Gray and Gray read over the hand out that was provided. Questions and answers were received and fund balances were discussed.

Motion to approve Supervisor Report made by Council member Bob Washo, seconded by Jim Smith. All in favor. Motion carries.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley discussed the Corona Virus updates. Ashley stated that there will be weekly updates and discussions with Dana McGuire of St. Lawrence County Public Health with Town Supervisors and Village Mayors. St. Lawrence County will be placed under the Ray Brook office at this time. Ashley stated she was in contact with Matt Denner, St. Lawrence County Emergency Services. An update will be placed on the Town of Cantons website.

Justice Mike Morgan recommended that the municipal building be disinfected by professionals. Supervisor Ashley stated she has suggested this to the building committee and knows it is a concern.

Council member Tim Danehy stated that the Sales tax revenue will take a big hit from the virus this year. Local colleges in the Canton Potsdam area are now on break due to the virus. Danehy recommends following the lead of the people that are on top of this matter of the virus.

G. Correspondence:

1. Pyrites Hydro Electric Project draft study was briefly discussed. Council member Bob Washo stated that he shared it with the Waterfront Advisory Committee. Washo plans on being in on the conference call with them They were asked to explore the idea of a trail from County Road up to Bridge Street in Pyrites.

2. Moses Adirondack Transmission Lines Construction Project. Council member Tim Danehy attended a meeting at the County and forwarded the Town Board members a power point on the matter. Mary Ann, I don't know what to say here. Im not much into construction Hopefully this project will create jobs or at least keep our local residents here in the area as opposed to having to travel for work. Danehy added that you will see the project under way from the Massena area to the Morley Potsdam Road, on the Town boundary.

3. DCO report: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that Ag and Markets sent the Town an inspection report and was deemed as satisfactory.

H. Audit Committee:

A: \$43,069.22
B: \$4,210.29
SL: \$336.10
TA: \$15,751.15
DA: \$29,054.29
DB: \$17,793.63
SF: \$61,917.16

Motion made by Council member Jim Smith to approve expenditures, seconded by Council member Bob Washo, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

I. Acceptance of Department Reports:

Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Lisa Hammond stated that taxes collected to date is at 81 percent and the office continues to be busy. Hammond thanked Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley for getting the new hand standardizer stations for the offices and noted that people are using them during this uncertain time. Hammond noted that practically, of it with tax collection a lot of people come through her office.

Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez stated that the Dairy Queen project will be going out to bid. Canton Housing Authority elevator project will be going out to bid soon. The Village water expansion project is progressing.

Jeni Reed has been hired to work in the ED Office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm and also take Planning and Zoning board meeting minutes for both the Village and Town

Historian Linda Casserly stated that she has been working with Matt Randy on a dedication project to Ike Noble and others from Canton area.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley noted that the Court report has not been received. Clerk Hammond will reach out to the Court and have them place it in the Google Docs folder.

Motion made by Council member Bob Washo to accept department reports as presented, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

J. Committee Reports:

Health Insurance Committee member Karin Blackburn and Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley met with Tiss Blesemeyer. Ashley noted a lot of new changes coming and that Tiss may come in and give a presentation.

IT Committee members Karin Blackburn and Bob Washo have met and on the new IT policy to be discussed later in the meeting.

K. Old Business:

1. Discuss Zoning Audit:

Discussion was held on what should be the next step on the Zoning Code Audit. River Street Contractors are putting together a proposal and the board is in agreement to contract with them. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley appointed Tim Danehy and Jim Smith to serve on the Zoning Audit Committee. Supervisor Ashley will ask Keith Zimmerman to join the committee along with Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez and Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray to be involved. The Planning and Zoning Board Chairs will be included to either join in or appoint someone.

L. New Business:

1. Joint Town/Village Meeting Date 3/16/2020 @ 5:30

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashely stated that there will be a meeting with the Village and Town of Canton held jointly on March 23rd at 5:30 pm. Followed by the regular Village Board meeting at 6:30 pm

2. Approve \$3500 Transfer from Special items Contingency B-1900-1900-4 to Zoning B-8000-81-010-4.

See attached Resolution.

Motion to approve budget amendment by Council member Bob Washo, seconded by Council member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

3. IT Policy:

Council member Bob Washo stated that multiple meetings were held on the new IT Policy. Washo noted that the new policy has been adopted by the Village of Canton. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley thanked the committee for the work that was done to finalize this.

Motion by Council member Tim Danehy to accept the Policy, seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

M. Public Comment:

Executive Session: Upon a majority vote upon a motion that identifies the subject to be considered, the Council may conduct an executive session to discuss any of the issues identified as proper by Public Officers Law 105(1)

7:35 PM Council member Karin Blackburn made a motion to go into Executive Session: Upon a majority vote upon a motion that identifies the subject to be considered, the Council may conduct an executive session to discuss any of the issues identified as proper by Public Officers Law 105 (1) F and H, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

8:59 PM Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Council member Bob Washo, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Council member Tim Danehy to authorize Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to sign the independent contract on a month to month basis with current Dog Control Officer Jim Pipher, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. Carried

9:01 PM Council member Karin Blackburn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mary Ann Ashley. All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted


Lisa A. Hammond - Town Clerk